A Copy of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. *Buell*, of *East-Hampton*, on *Long-Island*, to the Rev. Mr. *Barber*, of *Groton* in *Connecticut*.

Reverend and Dear BROTHER!

GRACE, Mercy and Peace, by all in Heaven, and all in Earth, that love Zion's Prosperity; everlasting Praise to the everlasting GOD, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, that in infinite Mercy the eternal Heavens are bowed, and Jehovah himself is come down by way of divine Influence upon, and in the Hearts of People in *East-Hampton*, with amazing Power and Glory, exceeding all I ever before saw, and all I have read or heard of since the primitive Times of Christianity. For

many Weeks paſt God has been preparing his Way; his own Children has been remarkably replenliſhed with Love, holy Joys, & unutterable Groanings in Prayer, for the out-powering of his holy Spirit upon us: Our Aſſemblies, numerous and ſolemn, and the Arrows of Conviction, Sermom after Sermon, have been faſtened in the Hearts of Sinners. Thus has it been for ſome Time paſt; but for a Week paſt, Heaven and Hell has ſeemed to meet here, and to reign here. God's People have almoſt all been favoured with ſuch Manifeſtations of divine Glory, ſuch Communications of Light, Love, Joy and Comfort, and been under ſuch labouring Pangs, and in ſuch Agonies of Diſtreſs for Sinners, that in ſome Inſtance it ſeemed as if Soul andBody would be ſeperated in many, beyond all I have now ſeen: But oh! the Agonies and Cries, and Importunities of Sinners forMercy! Mercy, Mercy, Lord! pardoned Mercy, for Jeſus Sake, for the chief of Sinners! Such praying for Mercy, ſuch Earneſtneſs of Expreſſion, and by way of Submiſſion to God, I have heard from modiſt Women, young People and Children, in great Numbers, and ſuch Declaration of Man's Sinfulneſs by Nature & Practice, of God's Juſtice and Mercy, and Chriſt's infinite Merit; and all by thoſe in queſt of Mercy, as exceed all I ever before heard or read of. Every Day, for a Week paſt, the Houſe of God has been repaired to by all our People in general; by nine o'Clock, no preaching was appointed, excepting

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excepting one of the Days, when it was ſuppoſed there was a Thouſand People on a Week Day in the Houſe of God, and all ſeemed ſomehow impreſſed with a weighty Senſe of eternal Things. Never did I ſee ſuch an Aſſembly, before! God's Glory filled the Houſe. Our Pews, Allys, Stairs, Seats, above and below, contained therein wounded and diſtreſſed Souls; and from Time to Time, Day after Day, the Holy Ghoſt evidently came down as a mighty ruſhing Wind: Sometimes almoſt as ſudden as a Flaſh of Lightning, bowing our Aſſembly, and producing the moſt amazing Agonies of Soul, and Cries, ever you heard. My Houſe from Day to Day, when we were not in the Houſe of God, began from early in the Morning, to be filled with Sinners, and their Cries for Mercy, continually 'till ten in the Evening: Their Cries you might hear in every Houſe, as you walked the Streets. In ſhort, as ſome of our ſolid old Chriſtians ſay, ſo I think, if any one that has not ſeen theſe Things, would form an Idea of them, they muſt think as well as they can, how it will be at the Day of Judgment, when God's People will be full of divine Joy, and Sinners full of Hell. I have indeed ſeen great Numbers the Week paſt, one would think the Damned ſcarce felt more of the Wrath of God; and I think I have Scripture Warrant to hope that ſeveral of the People in this Town, have experienced a ſaving Change in about a Week or a little more: Many of them have ſeemed to others,

as well as themſelves, to come as it were out of Hell, into Heaven! Huſbands and their Wives, Parents and their Children, hopefully New-born. All the Town ſeems bowed before this of amazing Power and Glory, and ſcarce a ſingle Inſtance of a Perſon out of Chriſt, above eight Years of Age, (and ſeveral under;) but is with Sollicitude inquiring, "What they ſhould do to be ſaved!" Moſt all our young People, as well as others, many of them Eight, Ten, and Twelv Years of Age, are now hopefully converted.—Among the Reſt, we have a JEW, that I have Reaſon to think is now a true Believer in the Meſſiah, whom he always deſpiſed, 'till within a few Days, the Diſpenſations of God are amazing, which I can't now relate. The Power of Scripture-Truth upon the Heart, under a Work of the Law, & the Application of the Goſpel thereupon, in this Work, is amazing! Some of our Juſtices and great Men in Town, that as they now own, never before liked Religion, in the Power of it, bow before this Work which has ſeized their Hearts; one of them ſays in Diſtreſs of Soul, "This is all the Work of "God! Oh that I may ſhare in another, tho' "I fear there is no Mercy for me, any more "than for Devils: Yet if I was now to die, I "would leave my Teſtimony (this is the Work "of God!") Another with Tears rolling down: "Heaven is now come down in *Eaſt-Hamp-*"*ton!*" They are in utmoſt Diſtreſs of Soul, for an Intereſt in Chriſt. All the Town ſeems bowed as it were like one Man; never did you

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or I ſee the firſt Commandment, ſo certified, as now in this Town: Hundreds are now in Diſtreſs of Soul for a Saviour, complaining of hard Hearts and blind Minds. I can only tell you by ſome Hints, what has been, and what is before us; I know not yet at preſent: It looks as if God was on his Way, to cauſe us all to know him from the Greateſt to the Leaſt; yet 'tis to be feared ſome will remain as Marſhes in miry Places: When the Veſſels are full, the Oil will be ſtayed. If any beſides yourſelf, ſhould read or hear theſe Lines, doubtleſs ſome at leaſt, if not all, will be ſhock'd, and wonder, as well they may, and the Wonder would grow upon them to a ſeven-fold Degree, was they to ſee and hear what I have for a Week paſt: But I aſſure you, my dear Brother, if I know any thing about a Work of God's Grace, in the Heart of Man, from God's Word, from and by God's Miniſters, and pious Authors; from the Experience of the dear People of God, and from my Experience of the Power of Religion in my own Soul. Bleſſed be God, for about thirty Years, I can't but declare, to the Glory of God, ſo far as I can judge from all theſe Things, that the Work of God now in *Eaſt-Hampton*, is far the moſt God-like, Chriſt-like, excellent & glorious, that ever I knew. If any one can call this Work a Deluſion, as to the Eſſentials of it, I am fully perſwaded they can do more than Devils can do: But perſonally conſidered, this gives me no Concern; the Work is in the Hands of God, and there let it

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be forever! You know, my dear Sir, I have been ſtudying the Prophecies concerning the latter Day of Glory, for a Number of Years paſt, and was about to ſpeak to the Publick from the Preſs, not as timing Events hopefully near, as I was deſigning to ſhew by a Treatiſe upon Daniel's four Monarchies, St. John's Revelation, and correſpondent Prophecies; but that Work lays by at preſent: For there is now Work enough in *Eaſt-Hampton*, for many Miniſters. I hope ſome Glimerings of the new Jeruſalem is breaking forth here; in my Study and other Rooms, I hear the Cries of Sinners for Mercy. By ſome young People, the ſinging of Pſalms and Hymns, and by Children that have come as it were out of Hell's Horrors! Theſe Words frequently repeated, "King Jeſus reigns, God's own almighty Son!" In ſhort, for I can't be particular, People in general here ſeem to think the time is come, that they muſt make or break for the World eternal! All our young People that are yet Chriſtleſs, ſee the World empty; and ſeem reſolved never more to have Comfort or Reſt, unleſs they can find it in the Lord Chriſt. How theſe extraodinary Appearances will terminate, is not for me to ſay; at preſent I can only tell what has been: And as I know not for an Hour, I have all the Satisfaction I want, without pretending to know the Heart, that a large Number of my dear People, of late are New-born; and with Chriſt's old Diſciples, are bowed for Glory. I make no Pretences to

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a propheticSpirit ; but I can't think this Work will end here : And I may venture to ſay, if this Work of God ſhould ſpread, & be diffuſed over New England, as I pray God it may, I believe that much more of God and Chriſt, of the marvelous Operations of the holy Spirit, and of Man's Heart, and of Heaven and Hell, will there be known, than was ever known before ! Incomparably more, if God ſhould come down upon the Hearts of People in general, as here it will be in his own Time, which is always the beſt Time. In the mean while, I hope God's Miniſters, ſuch as love the Coming of our Lord, and his Kingdom, will be found in the Spirit of Elias ; and appear full of the Holy Ghoſt. May God help his own dear Children to be inceſſent, as well as fervent, for a Day of ſuch Power & Glory ! 'Tis amazing, when viewed aright, that the Thoughts is no more affecting ; namely, that we live in a Day in which Thouſands are going down to Hell around us, for want of the divine Influence from on High ! But I muſt add ; doubtleſs you will want to know how it has been with my own Soul, during this Seaſon. I have no Diſpoſition to multiply Words ; I ſhall only ſay, giving all the Glory to God : My ſpiritual Exerciſe, divine Manifeſtations, Supports, Comfort and Aſſiſtance, have born ſome Proportion to this extraordinary Day. I know I want heavenly Wiſdom, the Zeal of a Seraphim, the Purity of a Saint in Glory : May God uphold me, or I cannot ſerve him. Pray hard for me and mine,

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my dear Brother, and give all the Glory to the ſacred Trinity; the whole and entire Glory: For thus muſt it, and may it be with each of our Souls everlaſtingly, and by all in Heaven! And this we now feel to be Heaven begun, even while we are more truly, methinks, than St. Paul, the chief of Sinners.——I add not, unleſs that I am your's,

In our ſweet Lord Jeſus!

Samuel Buell.

Mar. 17.
1764.

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